

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for communicating user identification information over a communications network, comprising:

a first network interface operable to establish a communication session with a network user, the first network interface operable to assign the network user a network locator address for the communication session from a range of network locator addresses available to the first network interface for allocation, the first network interface operable to authenticate an identity of the network user;

a second network interface operable to process a request sent by the user in the communication session, the request being forwarded by the first network interface and includes the network locator address of the network user, the second network interface operable to determine if the identity of the network user associated with the network locator address is stored in a local memory of the second network interface, the second network interface operable to obtain additional information about the network user in response to the identity of the network user being stored in the local memory, the second network interface operable to process the request according to the additional information.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the second network interface is operable to send a query according to the network locator address to the first network interface upon determining that there is no network user identity associated with the network locator address of the network user stored in the local memory, the first network interface operable to provide the identity of the network user to the second network interface in response to the query.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the second network interface is operable to send a query to the network user upon determining that there is no network user identity associated with the network locator address of the network user stored in the local memory, the second network interface operable to receive the identity of the network user in response to the query.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the second network interface is operable to authenticate the identity of the network user received from the first network interface.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 3, wherein the second network interface is operable to store the identity of the network user in the local memory and associate the identity of the network user with the network locator address.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the network is an Internet Protocol network and the network locator address is an Internet Protocol address.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the additional information about the network user includes at least one service to be performed on the request.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 7, wherein the at least one service to be performed on the request includes rating and filtering content of an exchange of information with the network user associated with the request.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the second network interface associates the request, the network locator address, and the identity of the network user with the first network interface.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the first network interface provides the second network interface with an association of the identity of the network user with the network locator address upon establishing the communication session.

11. (Currently Amended) A device for communicating user identification information over a communications network, comprising:

a client service gateway operable to process a request sent by a network user in a communication session, the network user having a network locator address, the request being forwarded by a service selection gateway network interface that has authenticated an identity of the network user and assigned the network locator address to the network user for the communication session from a range of network locator addresses available to the first network interface for allocation, the request including the network locator address of the network user, the client service gateway operable to determine if the identity of the network user associated with the network locator address is stored in a local memory of the client service gateway, the client service gateway operable to obtain additional information about the network user in response to the identity of the network user being stored in the local memory, the client service gateway operable to process the request according to the additional information.

12. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 11, wherein the client service gateway is operable to send a query according to the network locator address upon determining that there is no network user identity associated with the network locator address of the request stored in the local memory, the client service gateway operable to receive the identity of the network user in response to the query, the client service gateway operable to associate and store the received identity of the network user with the network locator address of the request.

13. (Original) The device of Claim 12, wherein the client service gateway is operable to determine an appropriate one of a plurality of service selection gateways that established the communication session with the network user to send the query in response to the network locator address.

14. (Original) The device of Claim 11, wherein the client service gateway is operable to receive an association of the identity of the network user with the network locator address upon establishment of the communication session.

15. (Original) The device of Claim 11, wherein the additional information includes a service associated with the network user to be performed on the request, the client service gateway operable to perform the service on the request.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating user identification information over a communications network, comprising:

receiving a request by a network user in a communication session, an identity of the network user being previously determined upon establishment of the communication session;

receiving information that identifies a network location of the network user, the network location being assigned to the network user upon establishment of the communication session from a range of network location information available for allocation;

determining if the identity of the network user associated with the network location information is stored in a memory;

retrieving additional information about the network user in response to a determination that the identity of the network user is stored in the memory;

processing the request according to the additional information.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 16, further comprising:

communicating a query according to the network location information for the identity of the network user upon determining that the identity of the network user is not associated with the network location information is stored in memory;

receiving the identity of the network user in response to the query;

storing the received identity of the network user in the memory.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, further comprising:

associating the received identity of the network user with the network location information.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising:

authenticating an identity of the network user.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein the network is a Internet Protocol network and the network location information of the network user is an Internet Protocol address.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein the additional information includes at least one service to be performed in association with the request.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein the at least one service to be performed includes rating appropriate content of an exchange of information associated with the request.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 21, wherein the at least one service to be performed includes filtering an exchange of information associated with the request.

24. (Currently Amended) A system for communicating user identification information over a communications network, comprising:

means for receiving a request by a network user in a communication session, an identity of the network user being previously determined upon establishment of the communication session;

means for receiving information that identifies a network location of the network user, the network location being assigned to the network user upon establishment of the communication session from a range of network location information available for allocation;

means for determining if the identity of the network user associated with the network location information is stored in a memory;

means for retrieving additional information about the network user in response to a determination that the identity of the network user is stored in the memory;

means for processing the request according to the additional information.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 24, further comprising:

means for communicating a query according to the network location information for the identity of the network user upon determining that the identity of the network user is not associated with the network location information is stored in memory;

means for receiving the identity of the network user in response to the query;

means for storing the identity of the network user in the memory.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 24, further comprising:

means for associating the identity of the network user with the network location information.

27. (Original) The system of Claim 24, further comprising:

means for authenticating an identity of the network user.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 24, further comprising:

means for performing at least one service specified by the additional information on the request.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including code for communicating user identification information over a communications network, the code operable to perform a process comprising;

receiving a request by a network user to establish a communication session, the network user having a network locator address within the network;

authenticating an identity of the network user;

assigning the network location to the network user upon establishment of the communication session from a range of network location information available to the first network interface for allocation;

determining if the identity of the network user is associated with the network location information in a memory;

retrieving additional information associated with the network user in response to the memory having an association of the network locator address with the identity of the network user;

processing the request in accordance with the additional information.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of Claim 29, further comprising:

communicating a query according to the network locator address for the identity of the network user upon determining that there is no association in the memory for the network locator address and the identity of the network user;

receiving the identity of the network user in response to the query;

storing the network user identification information in the memory;

associating the identity of the network user in the memory with the network locator address.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 29, wherein the additional information includes a service to be performed on the request, the code operable to perform the service on the request.